CBS NEWS EVENING NEWS - DEATH OF PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON (1- 22-1973)

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From January 22nd, 1973 in the middle of the CBS EVENING NEWS, Walter Cronkite breaks news that the 36th President of The United States, Lyndon B. Johnson has died. Johnson passed away at 3:39 P.M C.T

- Coverage runs 6:39 P.M E.T - 6:58 P.M E.T

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thank you very much tom i'm on the air right at the moment can you hold the line just a second i'm talking to tom johnston the press secretary for lyndon johnson it was reported that the 36th president of the united states died this afternoon in a ambulance plane on the way to san antonio where he was taken after being stricken at his ranch the lbj ranch in johnson city texas he was stricken at 3 40 p.m central standard time 4 40 central eastern standard time three agents who were at the scene who are permanently attached to the ranch to protect the president went to his immediate aid gave him all emergency aid they could put him in a plane i suppose tom one of the president's own planes [Music] colonel georgia granahan was the man who proclaimed the president dead upon arrival at brook army general hospital at san antonio and mr johnson was notified of the events at her office in austin and flew immediately to san antonio and tom johnston no relation the president's news secretary has just told me that from austin any other details tom [Music] all right thank you very much tom and we'll of course be keeping in touch with you thank you tom johnson tells me from austin that details of course are will be

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details of course are will be forthcoming there are none yet for the funeral arrangements for president johnson repeating president johnson the 36th president united states who served from the time of president kennedy's assassination in 1963 until uh 1969 when president uh nixon succeeded him has died he died of a heart attack he had been suffering from a heart uh ailments for some time he had two serious previous heart attacks one as recently as a couple of months ago he'd been back at his ranch though and seemed to be in reasonably good health in recent weeks he'd been up and around he had not been bedridden in any way and he was stricken this afternoon at 3 40 this afternoon he died shortly thereafter apparently despite the best efforts of three secret servicemen at the scene who gave him every emergency aid they could returning to the peace story this afternoon the peace that president johnson tried unsuccessfully to get in vietnam immediately after his arrival in paris the present presidential aide henry kissinger went to the residence of the south vietnamese foreign minister and they conferred the subject of their conference not immediately revealed all the talk of peace today could not obscure the sounds of war fierce fighting and a rubber plantation 40 miles northwest of saigon there the south vietnamese backed by heavy american air strikes claimed to have beaten back a north vietnamese threat to saigon but radio hanoi insists it was the south vietnamese who were badly shot up the two battalions were decimated 700 south vietnamese killed or captured and one wounded south vietnamese commander in retreat seemed to bear that out saying his unit fell apart i'll be back in a minute with our report on the energy crisis

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as we told you earlier former president lyndon baines johnson the 36th president of the united states is dead at the age of 64. he died this afternoon in his private plane after being stricken by a heart attack we now have a filmed obituary of former president johnson lyndon johnson was a man of domestic vision and domestic triumphs which were overtaken by distant events he ended as a war president trying to rally a nation to his own convictions but it was a war without victory and for many americans a war without heroes his prestige was one of its casualties born to a tradition of politics the personal style of the texas courthouse and sometimes roughhouse his father and his grandfather were elected to the texas legislature but lyndon was his mother's child she taught him to read mostly history at 16 a hillbilly boy in a jalopy he went looking for work in california he came home to go to college on seventy five dollars borrowed money and then spent a year teaching school to the second class citizens of texas mexican-americans later they would vote for him at 23 he went to washington as secretary to a texas congressman a few years later met a texas college girl named claudia taylor he called her lady bird he married her within two months in 1937 age 29 he barnstormed the state as a hundred percent new deal candidate for congress he won with help from young people for whom he had found jobs as state director of the national youth administration a franklin d roosevelt appointee and a roosevelt protege he was like a second daddy to me johnson later said in world war ii he was the first member

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in world war ii he was the first member of congress in uniform served as a lieutenant commander went back to washington when fdr recalled all congressmen afterwards he would seldom appear without his silver star decoration in his lapel 1948 in congress a six-term veteran with a reputation as a hard driver of himself and his staff at home a father of two young girls a breadwinner making payments on a house on furniture on a car talking about quitting politics and going into business but that year instead he raised his political stakes ran for the senate as a truman democrat against a conservative democrat johnson won by 87 contested votes earned the nickname landslide lyndon and the johnson career faltered in july 1955 when a massive heart attack nearly killed him he retreated to the ranch he had bought near his rude birthplace the family fortunes have begun to rise with lady bird's inheritance invested in an austin radio station dominoes an acquaintance once said were his only sport except for politics by 1960 lyndon johnson was the most powerful man in the senate with a potent ally in the house speaker sam rayburn his father's old friend was promoting him as the democrat's presidential candidate johnson said he was interested in nothing less than first place but the kennedy men came better prepared and in the end he accepted second place i will faithfully discharge the beauty vice president lyndon baines johnson sworn in by his old texas friend and mentor sam rayburn which i am about to enter so help me god we're not like brothers he once said about jack kennedy we were not constant companions but he sat in on cabinet meetings on the national security council head of the space council and job programs for negroes but for the kingpin of the senate the vice presidency was a come down

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vice presidency was a come down he said so in a conversation at the lbj ranch i think president kennedy kept me as well informed as any president ever kept a vice president in form i was disappointed at times i was i missed the active role that i played i think anyone that becomes vice president uh is disappointed particularly if he's been an active man in public life as they often are on november 22 1963 in dallas john f kennedy was assassinated aboard the plane on which his predecessor had arrived in dallas 2 hours and 52 minutes before lyndon johnson was sworn in as the 36th president of the united states as the leader of a shocked and troubled nation he addressed the congress in special session i profoundly hope that the tragedy and the torment of these terrible days will bind us together in new fellowship making us one people in our hour of sorrow so let us fear highly resolved the john fitzgerald kennedy did not live our guy in vain [Applause] he would never quite escape the kennedy shadow but he saw himself as kennedy's trustee i did everything i would want a man to do for my program or my family and after i finished the dreams that he had i started on my own and i had some too the average american does not demand much but we have a right to expect in this rich country

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rich country if we're willing to work from daylight to dark we have a right to expect a job to provide food for our families a roof over their head clothes for their body an opportunity to have our children educated and the right to worship god according to the dictates of our own conscience and with your support and with your help and with your faith and with your confidence and with god's help we will have it in america thank you johnson called for a great society and he got medicare a major civil rights bill improvements in housing and education building an imposing record of domestic legislation his first year in office the 64 convention was lbj all the way though he later told me he had strong doubts about running he was dismayed by divisions in the country that he couldn't man he called this pressing the flesh he seemed to get from this what some men get from solitude this time the landslide for linden would be a real one 61 the largest ever a mandate to pursue his own dreams as president in his own right for a while he seemed out from under the shadow 64 mandate turned loose the greatest flow of compassionate legislation in the history of the republic johnson the engineer the sure hand at politics this bill was to relieve the chronic depression and appalachia perhaps his greatest achievement was the 1965 voting rights bill that put the weight of the federal government behind the franchise for black citizens in the south their cause must be our cause too because it's not just negroes but really it's all of us who must overcome the crippling legacy of

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must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice and we shall overcome from the domestic scene in which his attempts at social reform were unparalleled since the administration of franklin roosevelt the president was now increasingly forced to turn his attention to foreign affairs a move that was to be both crucial and faithful for his administration our objective is the independence of south vietnam and its freedom from attack we want nothing for ourselves only that the people of south vietnam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way but nothing he said could still the growing opposition to the war at home and the communist tet offensive in 1968 though costly to the communists on the field produced a decisive turn within america the voices just came out of the holes in the wall and said let's get out and that's what ho chi minh had been trying to do all the time was to win in washington what he had won in paris to win in this country in the homes of this country what he could not win from the men out there that represented us and it was only when the going got hard and it's only when it it took a lot of willpower to stand up did we have much division on this war on march 31st 1968 lyndon johnson dropped a political bombshell in a speech to the nation first he announced a unilateral halt to the bombing of 90 percent of north vietnam and then his greatest surprise with americanist sons in the field far away with america's future under challenge right here at home

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right here at home with our hopes and the world's hopes for peace in the balance every day i do not believe that i should devote an hour or a day of my time to any personal partisan causes or to any duties other than the awesome duties of this office the presidency of your country accordingly i shall not see and i will not accept the nomination of my party for another term as your president so in 1969 president johnson retired to his texas ranch to take no further part in political affairs cbs news will present a retrospective on lyndon johnson beginning at 10 o'clock eastern time tonight the supporter cronkite good night

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